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Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives

Letter dated 27 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/121 of 10 December 2014 on the consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives, I would like to draw your attention to the following.

On 16 August 2015, at 3 p.m., an armed contingent of Ansar Allah (the Houthis), led by a member of the Sana'a Police Force named Abdul Hamid Al-Ansi, stormed the main gate of the Embassy of the United Arab Emirates compound in Sana'a. The armed contingent seized and occupied the compound, which contains the Embassy's main building as well as the residence of the Ambassador. Embassy staff members and security guards were ordered to leave the grounds, and Embassy-owned vehicles were moved by some members of the armed contingent to an undisclosed location. At present, the armed contingent is still occupying the Embassy compound in Sana'a.

The Government of the United Arab Emirates and the League of Arab States have strongly condemned this attack, which constitutes a flagrant violation of both customary and conventional international law as codified in the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and in the 1963 Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. In this context, I would also like to recall that, as recently as 14 April 2015, the Security Council, in resolution 2216 (2015), reaffirmed the fundamental principle of the inviolability of diplomatic and consular premises along with the obligations of host Governments to take all appropriate steps to protect diplomatic and consular premises against any intrusion or damage, and to prevent any disturbance of the peace of those missions or impairment of their dignity. In this regard, we welcome the press statement issued by the President of the Security Council on 19 August 2015 that condemned the seizure of the Embassy and demanded an immediate withdrawal of all Houthi elements from the premises.

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I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 80.

(*Signed*) Lana **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative